

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

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EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /070 W

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R 100525Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EGEN, PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK TALKS ON SALAL DAM AND CIVAIR TIES

SUMMARY. INDO-PAK TALKS IN ISLAMABAD, WHICH CONCLUDED JULY 3, MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN MEETING GOP CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED SALAL DAM. MFA INDIA DIRECTOR STATES GOP STILL EXPECTS CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS DISCLOSED NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THE FOUR-DAY INDO-PAK TALKS HELD IN ISLAMABAD JUNE 30 TO JULY 3 CONCERNING THE PAK COMPLAINT OVER THE PROPOSED SALAL DAM IN INDIAN KASHMIR. THE ONLY PRESS ITEM WAS A TWO-SENTENCE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSAGENCY PPI ON JULY 3 TO THE EFFECT THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD IN NEW DELHI IN THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY.

2. ON JULY 8, POL AND E/C COUNSELORS CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR FOR INDIA AFFAIRS, ZAFAR HILALY, AND LEARNED THAT FROM GOP'S VIEWPOINT THE TALKS HAD ACHIEVED NO SOLUTION TO THE PAK COMPLAINT AND ONLY SOME ANSWERS TO THE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS
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THE GOP HAD RAISED EARLIER. HILALY SAID PAKISTAN'S CONCERN

REMAINED THAT THE DAM, AS NOW BEING BUILT, WOULD PROVIDE THE GOI WITH THE CAPABILITY OF DUMPING THE DAM'S RESERVOIR, THEREBY FLOODING THE CHENAB RIVER VALLEY, AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WOULD PERMIT THE GOI TO CUT OFF ALL CHENAB WATER FOR AS LONG AS THIRTY DAYS AS THE RESERVOIR BUILT UP TO ITS MAXIMUM LEVEL. HE SAID THERE WAS STILL NO INDICATION THE GOI WAS PREPARED TO ALTER THE DESIGN OF THE DAM. HIS COMMENTS SUGGESTED THAT WHAT THE GOP WANTS IS NO RIVER-LEVEL GATES WHATSOEVER IN THE DAM. HE CONFIRMED ANOTHER TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN NEW DELHI WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. (A JULY 19-24 SESSION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED.)

3. HILALY ADDED THAT THE GOP WAS HOPING TO SOLVE THE DISPUTE BILATERALLY BUT IF THIS FAILED, PAKISTAN HAD THE RIGHT UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE INDUS VALLEY TREATY TO RESORT TO INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION UNDER WORLD BANK AUSPICES. HE INDICATED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD LIKELY AGAIN BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING OF GOI AND GOP FOREIGN SECRETARIES WHICH THE GOP STILL HOPES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. (ACCORDING TO THE PAKS, THE TWO SIDES HAD INFORMALLY AGREED AT THE INCONCLUSIVE MAY 15-20 TALKS IN NEW DELHI TO MEET IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS' TIME. THE PAKS SAY THEY HAVE HAD NO WORD YET THAT THE INDIANS WILL WISH TO POSTPONE THE SESSION BECAUSE OF THEIR DOMESTIC PREOCCUPATIONS.) HE SAID THAT NO REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOI FOROFF HAD BEEN PRESENT IN THE ISLAMABAD TALKS.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE RECESSED CIVAIR TALKS, HILALY RECALLED THAT THE GOI HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT PAKISTAN IS READY AT ANY TIME TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS. (HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO BHUTTO'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 15, ISLAMABAD 5484.) HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT PAKISTAN IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS CONCERNING RESOLUTION OF THE LAHORE INCIDENT, AND THAT THE BALL WAS IN THE GOI COURT TO BE FORTHCOMING ON THIS ISSUE.
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Message Attributes

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